

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Chief, Economic Research

14 December 1956

Deputy Chief, Industrial Division

Comments on Proposed Intelligence Research Techniques Course

1. In line with our discussions it is understood that this course will be given in M or Q Building and will take 40 hours instead of the original 80. I share the reservation concerning the instructor which was expressed by the others present at the meeting on the subject.

2. The course outline contains almost everything that should be considered and then some; however, there are three matters which seem to be overlooked. First, it must be determined how extensive an answer is desired by the consumer and the range of error and reliability required. It is often possible that a satisfactory answer can be presented immediately from the information already in the file. Second, any good researcher should do some preliminary research to determine whether the problem has been solved. Third, somewhere early in the research period it is necessary to evaluate the data to determine what kind of results are likely and an estimate of the most probable, the minimum and the maximum that can be expected from the project. On this basis a judgement must be made as to whether the project should be continued. Often this process must be repeated several times during the period of research.

3. It is quite clear that there is a need in ORR for a course on intelligence research techniques. My only reservation again is the instructor.

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